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FABLE NO. 77

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✓ THE FABLE OF
FRIDAY THE 13TH ✓

Wise old Farmer Al. Falfa is an optimist, even on Friday the 13th. He strums melodies upon his guitar while Henry the Cat and Fido the Dog dance steps grotesque and unique. During the course of the dance the Cat juggles a fish bowl. Accidentally, the feline drops the bowl and it smashes to bits. The occupant, a large gold fish escapes and the Cat gives chase. Taking refuge down Farmer Al's neck the fish gives the old boy considerable discomfit, especially when Henry Cat follows the finny fellow. These tactics naturally infuriate the Farmer and he goes after Henry who races down the road. As the pair pass along the highway they come upon a tree bearing a calendar, showing the date "Friday the 13th". This seems to be an ominous omen. A few minutes later Al sees two of his best roosters in combat and endeavors to stop them, but is badly beaten up in the fray. Henry finds much amusement at Al's predicament. Pessimistically, Henry says, "I once knew a man who was killed on Friday the 13th." But the optimistic Farmer says "Bosh!" Meanwhile, Fido is busy scratching his fleas. He rubs his back against everything in sight, thus, passing the pests on to torment others. Horse, trees and what-not, flee from the flea-stricken dog. Fido rubs up against Al and Henry calls out, "You can't be too careful on Friday the 13th, that's all". The biting of the fleas drives the Farmer frantic and he runs about in pain. He is followed by Henry and when they again pass the calendar reading, "Friday the 13th", Henry suggests, "Change the calendar". So Al tears off a leaf and makes it read, "Saturday the 14th." Henry gives further evidence of pessimism by saying, "Put the clock ahead". Again, Al takes Henry's advice. He tries to climb up the ladder to the clock on the barn, but each rung breaks as soon as he places his foot on it. Finally, when Al does manage to get up to the clock, a mule kicks his heels out of the loft window and knocks the ladder down. Farmer Al. takes a tumble and lands in a heap on the ground. Henry comes up and kids him by saying, "I am glad to see you took my advice". Just then, the mule kicks the clock down and it lands on Al's head. Everything seems to be going wrong but Al is still defiant against Henry's superstitions concerning Friday the 13th. He won't believe that the date has anything to do with his run of bad luck.

Moral: A Man Convinced Against His Will Is Of The Same Opinion Still

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